

# ARTICLES

TO BE

Enquired of and Answered unto

BY THE

Churchwardens and Sworn Men

IN THE

PRIMARY VISITATION

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God,

**J O H N**

Lord Bishop of **N O R W I C H**,

1 6 9 2.

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L O N D O N :

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Bibliography



THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

'In Paradise the Tree  
Of Knowledge was the pride ;  
By God's supreme decree,  
The man who eat, then died.

But Heaven in mercy since  
Does him who tastes forgive ;  
To know is no offence ;  
Now, he who eats, shall live.'

HENRY STEVENS of Vermont, FSA, &c  
4 Trafalgar Square, London.  
1882



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The Oath to be Administred to  
the Churchwardens of each  
Parish.

**Y** O U shall Swear truly and faith-  
fully to Execute the Office of a  
Churchwarden within your Parish,  
and shall diligently Enquire and make true  
Presentment of such Things and Persons as  
you know to be presentable by the Ecclesiasti-  
cal Laws of this Realm.

So help you God.

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# ARTICLES O F ENQUIRY,

Unto which

The Churchwardens or Side-men are to  
Answer in the Diocess of *Normich.*

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## TIT. I.

*Concerning Churches, Chappels, with the things belong-  
ing thereunto.*

I. **I**S your Parish-Church or Chappel, both in the Roof and Windows, Floor and Seats, in good and sufficient Repair; and are all things therein kept in an orderly and decent sort? Can. 85.

II. Is there a Font of Stone in your Church or Chappel, with a Cover to it; standing in the ancient usual place? Doth your Minister there Baptize publickly? Is there a decent Communion-Table in your Chancel; covered in time of Divine Service with a Carpet, and when the Communion is administred, with a fair Linnen Cloath? And have you a Chalice or Communion-Cup, with a Cover, and one or more Flaggons? Have any of these been profaned by common use? Can. 81, 82.

III. Have you a convenient Seat or Pew wherein to read Divine Service; a Pulpit; a large Bible of the last Translation; a Book of Common-Prayer published 1662; the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority; a printed Table Can. 80, 82, 83.

of the Degrees wherein Marriages are prohibited ; a Book of Canons ; and a decent Surplice ?

IV. Have you a Parchment Book for the Registering of the Day and Year of every Christning, Wedding, and Burial in your Parish ; and is it kept in all points according to the Canon in that behalf ?

Can. 70.

## T I T. II.

*Concerning the Church-yard, Houses, Glebes and Tythes belonging to the Church.*

I. **I**S your Church-yard well fenced, and decently kept ? Hath any person encroached upon it, or made any door into it ? And how long since ?

*How long since*

II. Is the House of your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, and the Out-houses in good repair ? Have any of them been defaced or pulled down without Licence ? Have there been any encroachments made upon the same, and by whom ?

Can. 87.

III. Have you a true Terrier of all the Glebelands, Meadows, Gardens, Orchards, Tenements or Cottages belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage ? As also a note of such Pensions, Rate-Tithes, and Portions of Tithes, or other yearly profits (either within or without your Parish) as belong thereunto ? Have any of them been withheld from your Minister, and by whom, as you know and have heard ? And is your Terrier laid up in the Bishop's Registry ?

## T I T. III.

*Concerning Ministers.*

Can. 48.

I. **I**S your Minister licensed by the Bishop ? Hath he been legally inducted ? And read the 39 Articles within the time by Law appointed, and declared his Assent thereto ? Is he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniackal compact ?

Stat. 13 Eliz.  
c. 12.

Can. 43, 47, 48.

II. Is your Minister constantly resident among you, and doth he preach every Lord's Day, unless hindered by sickness or reasonable absence ? How long in any one year hath he been absent from his Cure ? who supplies it, during his absence ?

absence? Doth he serve any other Cure besides, or hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice?

III. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the daily Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the Holy Sacraments, Celebration of Marriage, Churching of Women after Child-birth, Visitation of the Sick, Burial of the Dead, use the Form and Words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer: and all such Rites and Ceremonies, as are appointed in that Book, so far as you have observed?

Act of Uniformity.

IV. Doth your Minister at the Reading and Celebrating Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel wear the Surplice; together with such other Habit as is suitable to his Degree?

Can. 53.

V. Doth he celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper so often, that every Parishioner may receive it thrice at least in every year? And doth he keep back such as ought not to be admitted, giving an Account of them to the Bishop?

Can. 21, 22, 26  
Rubrick before the Communion.

VI. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism? And doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop?

Can. 59.  
Rubrick before confirm.  
Can. 61.

VII. Doth he refuse or neglect to visit the Sick; or delay the Baptism of any Infant in danger of death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Persons grown up, who, through your Minister's Default, yet remains unbaptized in your Parish?

Can. 67, 69.

VIII. Hath he married any Persons in private Houses; or such as being under Age have not the consent of their Parents or Guardians, or without Banes first published in the Church on three Sundays or Holy-days; or at any other Hours than between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a Licence so to do?

Can. 62, 63.

IX. Doth your Minister declare to the People every Sunday, at the time appointed in the Communion Book, the several Holy-days and Fasting days in the Week following? And doth he observe them?

Can. 64.

X. Is he a Man of a sober, studious, peaceable and exemplary life? Is he grave, modest and regular in his outward Demeanour and Apparel? Is he, in any kind, disorderly and scandalous?

Can. 74, 75.



## TIT. IV.

*Concerning the Parishioners.*Can. 18.<sup>9</sup>

I. **D**Oth every Parishioner demean themselves Reverently in your Church or Chappel, during Divine Service and Preaching the Word of God ; kneeling at the Prayers and Sacrament ; standing up when the Creed and Gospel are read ; saying audibly, with the Minister, the Confession, Lord's Prayer and Creed ; And making such other Answers to the Publick Prayers as are appointed in the Book of Common Prayer ?

Can. 109.

II. Is there any Person in your Parish who lieth under a Common Fame, or Suspicion of Adultery, Fornication, or Incest ? Are there any common Drunkards, Swearers, or Blasphemers of God's Name ? Or any that are noted to be filthy Talkers, Railers, Sowers of Sedition, Faction and Discord among their Neighbours ?

Can. 85.

III. Are there any that refuse to pay their Duty for *Easter Offerings* ; or to contribute to the Rates made for repair of your Church or Chappel, or any thing thereunto belonging ?

IV. Hath any Legacy been left by the last Will & Testament of any Persons, to your Church or Chappel, or to the Poor, or any other pious and charitable use ? Which hath been mispent or embezzelled, and by whom ?

V. Are there any in your Parish, who under pretence of Liberty of Conscience, wholly neglect all publick Worship of God ; neither going to Church, nor to any Assembly that meet together according to the late Act for exempting their Majestie's Protestant Subjects dissenting from the Church of *England*, from the Penalties of certain Laws ?

Act for exempting, &amp;c.

VI. Have you any such Assembly of Dissenters in your Parish ? Have they certified the place of their Meeting to the Bishop, or such others as that Act appoints ? Do they meet with their Doors lock'd, barr'd or bolted during the time of their Meeting ? Have their Preachers subscribed the Articles of our Religion, except those  
excep-



excepted in the Act, and taken the Oaths, and subscribed the Declaration therein required?

VII. Are there any who profess to live in the Communion of the Church of *England*, who neglect to come to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, being of Age fit to receive it? Can. 112.

VIII. Are there any living within your Parish, as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Can 99.

IX. Do you know, or have you heard of any in your Parish, who having the Presentation of an Ecclesiastical Living, hath made any Simonaical compact or gain thereby; either in Money, or by reserve of any part of the Tithes or Glebe belonging to the Benefice?

X. Have any Pews or Seats been erected in your Church or Chappel, without leave from the Ordinary? Is there any strife or contention about Seats in the Church? Have any occasioned Riot, Clamor or Disturbance in the Church at any time?

## T I T. V.

### *Concerning Parish-Clerks and Sextons.*

I. **H**AVE you a Parish-Clerk; Aged Twenty one years at least? Is he of an honest Life and Conversation? Able to perform his duty in Reading, Writing and Singing? Is he chosen by your Minister? Doth he duly attend him in all Divine Services in the Church? Are his Wages duly paid him? Or who withholds the same from him? Can. 91.

II. Doth your Sexton perform his Duty diligently, in keeping the Church clean and decent, in tolling and ringing the Bells before Divine Service?

T I T.

## T I T. VI.

*Concerning Schoolmasters, Schools and Hospitals.*

Can. 77, 78, 79. I. **W**Hat Schoolmaster, private or publick, is there in your Parish? Is he licensed by the Bishop? Doth he teach his Scholars the Church Catechism? Doth he cause them to repair orderly to the Church or Chappel on Sundays and Holy-days, and there see that they behave themselves quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

II. What Hospital, Alms-house, or Free-School hath been founded in your Parish? Are they so ordered in their Revenue and Use, as the Founders appointed, and the Law of the Land allows?

III. Do any in your Parish practise Physick, Chirurgery, Midwifery, without licence from the Ordinary?

## T I T. VII.

*Concerning Churchwardens and Sidemen.*

Can. 89. I. **A**Re the Churchwardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joint consent of your Minister and Parishioners? Or one of them by your Minister, and the other by the Parishioners?

Ibid. II. Have the former and last Churchwardens given up a just account of the Money they have received and laid out for the use of the Church? And have they delivered up the Money remaining in their hands to the succeeding Churchwardens, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

Rubrick after Commun. III. Do they provide against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread, and good Wine, according to the number of Communicants, at the Charges of the Parish?

F I N I S.

